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ÆDES WESTMONASTERIENSIS.

25

Carmen Latinum
IN THEATRO SHELDONIANO RECITATUM
DIE JUNII XXVI. MDCCCLXVII.

AUCTORE
ARTURO GODLEY,
E COLL. BALL.

20.



George Arthur Godley June 11/1867

OXONII:

T. ET G. SHRIMPTON.

1867.

29932. f. 16



ÆDES WESTMONASTERIENSIS.



Tu procul exortos longinquo, Thamesi, rivos
Fonte trahis, variosque via præterfluis agros;
Nunc tibi densantur superimpendentia silvæ
Tegmina; demissæ tinguntur in æquore frondes;
Hic avium cantus, argutaque gaudet hirundo
Summo immersa lacu; tenues hic aura favoni
Horrificat fluctus et amabilis incubat aer:
Nunc patulum findis planumque sine aggere campum,
Undat aprica seges, gregibus candentia rident
Pascua: tu ripæ magno percussus amore
Mæandros trahis et fluvios ambage moraris:—
Dic tamen, anne usquam facies tibi amœna locorum
Visa magis, quam qua vasto jam denique ponto
Incipis immisceri et amara tingier unda?
Quid si nigrantis se densa volumina fumi
Evomuere poloque hærent subjecta propinquo,

Si ferrugineus totum vapor aera densat
Additus, et rebus nebula aufert atra colorem?
Est tamen est sua forma loco: nec te latet ingens.
Gloria nec priscos ornantia nomina fastos.

Talia versabam visuque immotus eodem
Hærebam: stetit ante oculos elata sub auras
Vasta ædes, tranquilla tuens: ea crescere nempe
Visa per obscurum et vera fit major imago.
Continuo deferre pedem porroque vagari
Fert animus; fert et placidos intrasse recessus
Et sacram antiqui meditari temporis umbram.
Longi templo aditus* atque atro tramite clausi,
Parietibus texti cæcis: hiat obsitus ævo
Murus et exsudat stillantibus undique saxis.
Inde iter emenso tandem se devia pandit
Janua et in medium gressus immittit: ibi omnis
Visa domus magna patuit veneranda figura.
Jamque inhians vastasque fores atque ardua tecta
Et picturatas vitro illucente fenestras
Ipam atque ingenti stupefactus imagine rerum

* The cloisters of the Abbey.

Singula lustrabam : supra sublime lacunar
Conspectum refugit ; series tum immensa recedens
Visa columnarum decrescere et ordine longo
Auferri et placidas sensim se abscondere in umbras.
Qualis, ubi surgunt, procera cacumina, fagi
Digestæ duplicem in versum et sua frigora nectunt,
Efficitur medius spatianti accommodus infra
Limes, et apparet longa via ducta sub umbra :
Aut ubi parva æstu contunditur Atlantæo
Insula,^b fluctisonis subter terebrata cavernis,
Surgere miramur laquearia, saxaque saxis
Imposita, et viva factas de rupe columnas.
Quin varias spectanti artes operumque labores
Nescio quis pavor arrepsit, gratusque sub imo
Corde tremor. Tota, quam lata, silentia regnant
Sacra domo, ni qua timidis vestigia plantis
Insisto, sonitusque pedum per longa resultat
Atria : divinam pudor est violasse quietem.

Ecce autem effigies circum sanctæque prioris
Ævi relliquiæ suadent super ossa morari :
Hic gens heroum si quos sua vivida bello

^b Staffa.

Illustrat virtus, veterique ab origine reges;
 Quos inter tu,^c magne virûm, tu carmina poscis
 Dum^d sedem hanc in honore Dei fataliaque auctor
 Fundamenta locas. Olim torpente veterno
 Squaluerant ripœ, loca feta palustribus ulvis,
 Insulaque horrebat crebris intersita dumis.
 Tu sed partiri campum non ante subactum
 Jussisti, sacrosque domum consurgere in usus;
 Jamque illam incolumem sperabas posse manere;
 Non ita fas fato. Bella en bella improbus hostis
 Sævit agens, atque arva fera dat vasta rapina
 Nec templo abstinuit, glomeratque incendia circum:
 Nequiquam: invictas haud secius extulit arces
 Miraturque novas turres recidivaque tecta.

Te sequitur sancto laudis qui^e captus amore
 Ornavitque ædem et spatiiis majoribus auxit;
 Rex idem: tamen o quam rerum exoptet habenas
 Intactas, quam sceptræ suæ non credita dextræ!

^c King Sebert founded the Abbey. It was afterwards burnt by the Danes.

^d Cf. *Æn.* vi. 586.

^e Edward the Confessor, whose reign was harassed by the feuds of his nobles and his quarrel with his mother, Queen Emma.

Odit enim, causam lacrimis, decus; odit honores;
Odit primorum invidias, et jurgia matris,
Bellaque et effuso recalentes sanguine campos.

Quis tamen ille^f etiam arma gerens etiamque sepulcro

Bellator? Nosco pectus spectandaque membra
Mole gigantea, clipeique insignia, et ensem
Fulmineum, ingentem. Dedit illi Cimbria quondam
Debellata manus: illum confessa potentem
Scotia, nequiquam vallo munita jugorum,
Devictusque humiles volvebat Clydius undas.
Quin et se leto comitem dedit inclyta conjux,
Inclyta, quæ moriente viro fert una salutem
Non timida illapsum tenero trahere ore venenum.
Tantum jussit amor; neque enim non ulla ferebat
Præmia nec tanti vanescit gratia facti:
Conscia, funereos longe signantiæ cursus
Ornamenta viæ, viduum attestata dolorem.
Clara hinc progenies: hinc et^g qui fulminis instar

^f Edward I., conqueror of Wales and Scotland. He raised a line of crosses along the road to mark the course of Queen Eleanor's funeral.

^g Edward III., and his son the Black Prince.

In Gallos furit agmen agens, terretque trementes.
Filius huic juxta,—salve o memorabile nomen,
Salve grande decus! jam cantum audire tubarum
Impavidus videor: videor loca fulgida turmis
Cernere et ingenti se miscentem æquore pugnam;
Tu sublimis equo nigrisque interritus armis
Accendis fortes animos, fortissimus ipse;
Diffugere hostes. Atqui non invida fata
Æquarunt vitam meritis: te funere acerbo
Ploramus raptum et prima inter cœpta caducum.

Nec procul hinc dubios exceptit janua gressus
Nigro oblecta aditu,^h tenebræque in limine primo.
Intus amœna loci species; pendentia tecta,
Artis opus magicæ; summasque amplexa columnas
Sertorum in faciem bicolor rosa nectere fetus
Ambiguos; credas gelidum efflorescere saxum.
Quæ dum oculis lustras Martem lugere memento
Civilem et patriæ versas in viscera vires:
Scilicet hæc servat princeps loca,ⁱ qui sibi regnum
Unanimum effecit: neque enim borealibus oris

^h Henry VII.'s chapel has a dark entrance.

ⁱ Henry VII.

Nox ubi dimidium silet intempesta per annum
Gratius exoritur Phœbi jubar: ille furores
Luctatosque diu populos componit in unum
Pacis amans, gratamque aperit post nubila lucem.
Aspice et hic fratres¹ tenero quos flore juventæ
Vis spoliat patruī et regnandi insana cupido:
Insontes ambo! vita, dum vita manebat,
Fortunaque pares, neque in ipsa morte dirempti.
Et te immaturum juvenemque hanc misit in ædem,
Sancte puer,² rapuitque decus lex atra futurum;
Heu simplex anima, heu veræ pietatis imago
Ingenuusque pudor! licet indulgere dolori
Paullisper, patriamque et spes plorare fugatas.

Sic tot dissimiles animos sors una sepulchri
Consociat. Necnon tenues net aranea telas
Ossa super regum,³ fetusque impune novos
Educunt volucres atque omni de trabe nidos
Suspendere: juvat sanctos habitare recessus,
Credo equidem, placitamque Deo volitasse per ædem:

¹ Edward V. and his brother.

² Edward VI.

³ Birds have built in Henry VII.'s chapel.

Tanta quies circum: tantam post proelia pacem
Bellator fovet et longum sine fraude soporem.

Parte alia numeris tandem desueta canoris
Turba jacet vatum. Non^m hic inscripta sepulcris
Vana supervacuas enarrant carmina laudes:
Nec fandi ullum opus est: satis hæc vulgata. Quis
illum

Quis nescit, primus terra^a qui solvere funem
Audet inexpertaue rudes classe imbuit undas?
Ille operum princeps: Musam ciet ille tacentem
Jamdudum et dulci ad cantus præludit avena.
Qualis it in nubes primo jam lumine alaunda
Exoptatque diem: nec longum tempus, et orsa
Dulcedo magis et magis increbrescere vocum:
Ingeminat strepitus: valles pulsataque longe
Respondent nemora; intentus procul auribus hausit
Pastor, et insolito tentatur pectora sensu.
Sic illi gens magna subit: quos inter, Avon^f,
Fluviorum minime exiguo qui laberis alveo,

^m Poets' Corner contains few and for the most part short epitaphs.

^a Chaucer.

Egregium ante omnes genuisti ; nec canit ille
Arte laborata, sed mens sine compede, sed fons
Largior ingenii facilem dat fundere vocem.
Ergo Cecropio seu non indigna cothurno
Sive leves moyet ille jocos, sine pulvere palmam
Occupat, et primos aufert ignarus honores.
Nec Miltonus abest, quo non præstantior alter
Res aperire novas atque altum condere carmen :
Ipse die cassus : tanto magis insita Musæ
Vis animat mentem ; canit ille interque canendum
Scandit regna poli et spatii confinia temnit.
Namque refert medio miscentes prælia cœlo
Infernas superumque acies : micat æthere fulgur
Telorum, diroque Chaos tremit omne tumultu.
Sed quid ego hæc memorem, aut quid te° qui carmine
victum

Victorem memoras Asiæ, Musamque magistram,
Tyndaridamque novam et repetita incendia Trojæ ?
Aut^p cui dicta sua virgo candentior agna,

° Dryden. Cf. the Ode on St. Cecilia's day.

"Thais led the way

And like another Helen fired another Troy."

^p Spenser.

Quam fama est domuisse iras rabiemque leonum,
Simplicitate potens?¹ Ter felix, Anglia, tellus
Læta poetarum partu: tibi ducere fontes
Castalios Natura dedit, viresque bibendo
Musarum occultas tenui cognoscere sensu.

Nec non et decus omne togæ pacisque ministros
Cernere erat; quisquis facundo detonat ore
Perque vices tollitque animos et temperat idem:
Illum insurgentem spectat spectatque loquentem
Curia, et arguto sentit deflexa magistro.
Pars alia ingenuas artes auxere colendo:
Hic vera referens genitoris imagine vultus
Tradit, et immemores natos vetat esse parentum;
Ille, immane ausus, parva non parva tabella
Nubilaque tractusque maris ridentiaque arva
Describit: duxisse alii de marmore vivo
Spirantes norunt formas farique paratas.

Atque ego ni cursu jamjam suprema peracto
Decurram spatia et visu tandem ultima signem,
Te canerem, artificis cui vis invicta vaporis
Paruit humanosque volens concessit in usus:

¹ "Quam . . . potens." Cf. *Æn.* x, 707-10, 537-9.

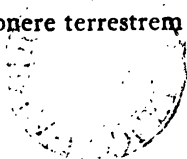
Aut quem Naturæ leges cognosse latentes
Prolapsum docuit pomum, quique æthera totum
Percurristi animo stellantemque ignibus axem;
Teque adeo,^r qui tot dubiis nova littora velis
Tot maria emensus, summo jam in fine laborum
Deficis heu dis et ventis oppressus iniquis;
Non externa petens; patriam accessisse nocebat
Scilicet, et nota versaris naufragus ora.

Talia dum reputans nunc huc nunc metior illuc
Vestibula antiquamque feror sine more per ædem,
En vespertinos supra caput ærea ritus
Lingua vocat. Jam nunc longo procul ordine pompam
Candentique habitu vestis per devia duci
Aspicio: nunc hora sacros nunc reddere cultus
Ac dictis lenire Deum atque in vota vocare.
• Illi alternantes submisso murmure voces
Dant solitas, peraguntque preces et munera laudis,
Dulce ministerium. Tum vero excelsa sonorem
Organa miscuerunt: fertur vox prima per aures
Parva imploranti similis similisque querenti;
Mox vires paullatim adhibent, dum denique longe

^r Sir Cloudesley Shovel, who was wrecked on the Scilly Isles.

Horrendum intonuere; tremunt a vertice summo
Templa, tremit tellus, labefactaque visa moveri.
Haud secus albentes si qua Germanica curvat
Unda sinus, placido motu procedere fluctus
Procurrensque pedes vix lambere lacteus humor:
Sin maria in pugnam Boreas ciet, ilicet imus
Misceri pontus: vastus se illidit aquæ mons
In præceps; gemuere oræ, gemuere cavernæ.

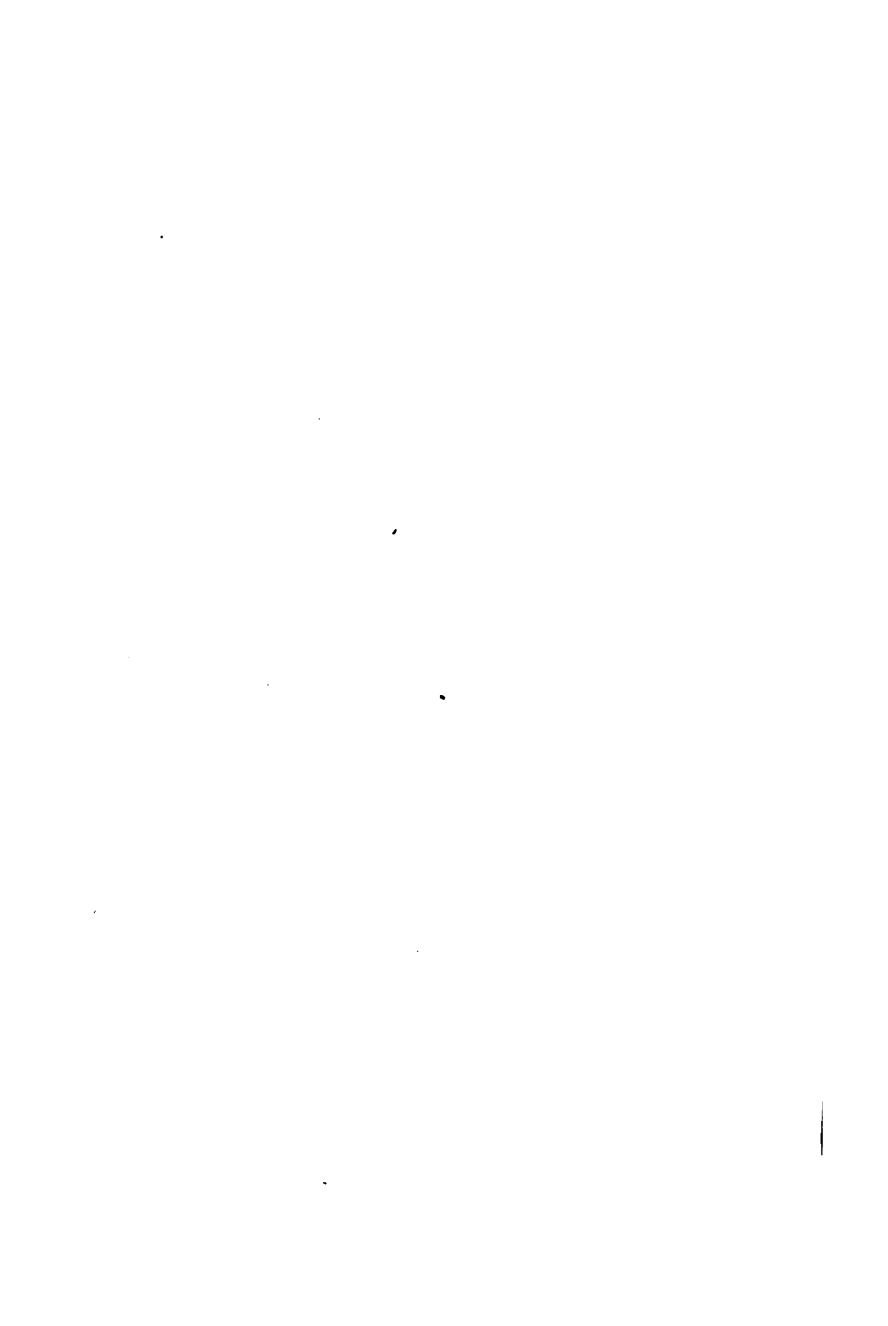
Desierant voces: juvat ire et jungere gressus
Donec in externas lento pede mittimur auras.
Vesper adest; venit en splendenti insigne rubore
Dum specto jubar et crescentes discutit umbras.
Ipse equidem immotus retro defixa tenebam
Lumina et adspectans ædem venerabar; at illa
Visa recedentis vestiri luce diei
Et soles novisse suos, cælumque sub ipsum
Ponere terrestrem capita indignantia noctem.

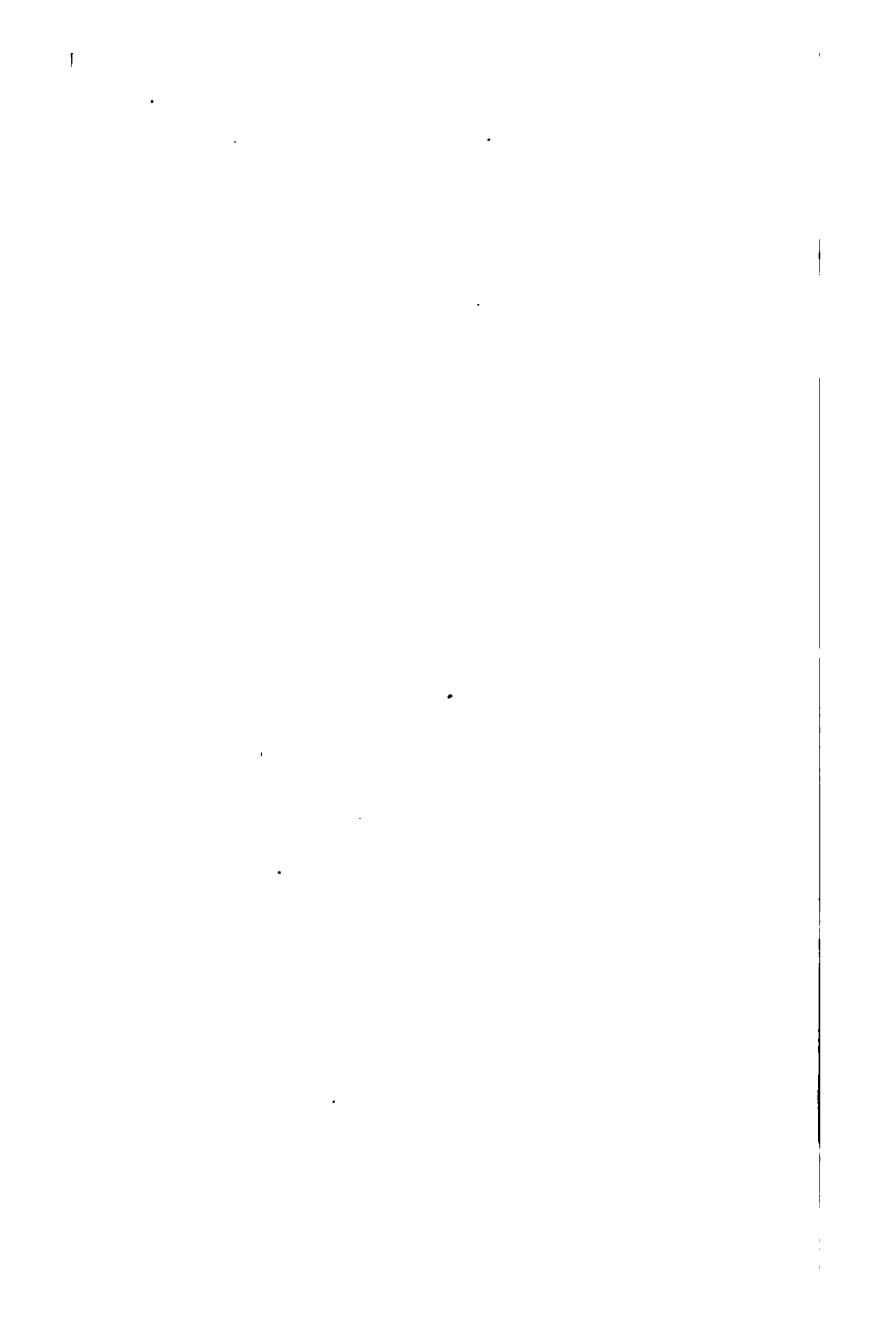












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